

THE BURMA NEWS



AUGUST, 1935

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THE BURMA NEWS

H. W. SMITH, *Editor.*

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No. 8

Thonze

The last two months have been busy ones. Schools to open, new pupils to welcome, and new teachers too; for we have had four lady teachers who married and one of the men. Now we seem to be settling down for the long hard pull.

How we miss our eight boys who have gone to the Bible School! The two weeks before they left after they came in to rest from their three months of Daily Vacation Bible Schools, there was always something extra going on every evening. We have been settling down to our regular work. But the work has been going on. The Bible Women and preachers have been doing follow up work. It produces results, too; for about a dozen have been baptized bringing our numbers for the year up to sixty-two. The interest in the message does not lag. We have more than twenty-five names on our list of people who are seriously considering, among them folks of several races, and of all occupations from coolies to gongvis.

The Chaney's brightened three days for us last week and gave us estimable help in some of our problems.

The next thing on the program will be the Bible Class for the workers and we are thinking about that in our idle moments and working on it when we have time. In the back part of my mind is the following quotation

from Dr. G. B. Sambrell of the Southern Baptist Convention:

"It is fundamental to the performance of our task that our own people be rooted and grounded in the truth. The most comprehensive plans for indoctrinating all our people should be devised speedily and carried out vigorously with the joy that hearing the truth always gives. No heed should be given to the many silly tirades against doctrinal teachings, characteristic of shallow minds. The fact that the great doctrines are in the Bible is sufficient evidence that they should be taught. Besides, nothing will stand that is not founded on the eternal truths of God's Word, and we are working for all time."

Translate the word *doctrine* in your Bible and in the above quotation *teaching*, and see what new light it brings for that word "doctrine" has been misused and abused till it has lost to some extent its original meaning, *teachings*... Our people need to be taught the teachings of the Bible and if they were they would not "be blown about by every wind of doctrine," and would not be led astray by every new fad that comes along.

J. T. Latta.



Count yourself richer that day you discover a new fault in yourself, not because it is there, but that it is no longer a hidden fault.

Kutkai—Kachin

The two spirit priests who were mentioned in the article from Kutkai last month have since then had the spirit altars removed from their houses, and are now being prepared for the next step towards out and out Christianity. Reports are coming that a similar work is going on in different parts of the field. We rejoice that the light is penetrating the darkness, and that the perfect love of Christ is driving out the fear of demons.

Two weeks ago, at the general meeting of villages within a radius of twelve miles from Kutkai, we had a congregation of two hundred and twenty-five. At this time the pupils from the Bible Training School presented thirty-nine men and women for baptism, who were accepted by the church. After the preaching service we all went to the little stream which flows through Kutkai, and they were baptised. The place chosen this time was in the heart of the town, so they began their Christian life by witnessing before a large crowd. After the baptism we all returned to the Chapel, and the right hand of fellowship was given them by one of the deacons, and the Lord's Supper observed. The meeting began at twelve o'clock and closed at four.

Yesterday a Kachin chief from the banks of the Salween, about three days journey from Kutkai, came to our house, asking us to send a preacher and two teachers to his village. The one who brought him and who had influenced him to take this step, was one of our wide-awake Christian laymen. This Chief rules over about a thousand families. He promised to supply food, and erect the necessary buildings if we would send the preacher and teachers. What a glorious opportunity! But financial difficulties loomed up at once. However, we have confidence in our Kachin brethren that they will help us solve these financial difficulties, as they have done before when we have shared our

problems with them. We will take up this question at our annual Bible Study meeting with the workers and leaders at Namhkam in October.

I sometimes wonder if we fully appreciate the blessing we enjoy by working under the protection of a stable Government. This came to us very forcibly when two Kachin workers from Mr. Vincent Young's field, had to flee from their villages, and come to Kutkai, leaving everything behind, except the clothing they wore, and seeing from a distance their houses and graneries going up in smoke. If all is as reported then the Was reduced about thirty villages to ashes. This was not a political, nor a religious warfare, but simply retaliation between peaceful traders and the head-hunting Was.

The Geises.



Maubin

Maubin is still on the map, though we have been too busy lately to mention the fact. The first part of the month was taken up with Miss Pound's departure. We knew we would miss her, but find that as the days go by the places left vacant by Miss Pound and Miss Lucas make us miss them more and more. We surely hope that someone will be sent out soon to take their places, for we cannot hope to adequately do their work in addition to our own. We went along with Miss Pound to Rangoon to see her off, and then stayed to Christian Council. It was a treat to see so many friends who came for that event, and we enjoyed the meetings themselves. It was the first time that I had ever attended Christian Council. Since coming back we have been busy not only in trying to get the school to running smoothly, but in preparing for the visit of the Minister of Education. He was here Saturday, and inspected the two schools here on the compound in the morning. Mr. Fletcher is anxious to develop the vernacular school here

somewhat along the lines of village reconstruction, making use of the paddy field which belongs to the school, and hoping to get government support for it. So he was glad of an opportunity to present his case. In the evening our school had the honor of presenting a concert for Dr. Ba Maw. Admission was by invitation only, and the concert was well attended in spite of the rain. We were glad of this opportunity of bringing the school to the attention of the official class of the town, and hope that it will result in more day scholars next year, thus helping out finances. There is a strong anti-Christian sentiment among the Buddhists here, and few of the Buddhist children attend Bible class. But now that the concert is over we hope to stimulate attendance by contests between classes, etc. If any of you have any schemes that have proved successful, please tell us about them. We would certainly appreciate any suggestions that might prove helpful. There is a nice spirit among the boarders, practically all of whom are Christians or from Christian families. Different groups take turns in coming to our house for their weekly prayer meetings, and they are keeping up their other prayer groups too. The rains are a bit heavier now, but that keeps it from being too hot, and the compound looks lovely during the rainy season. We hope that this year, especially, a lot of you will come to visit us. We can easily put you up, so come along whenever you can for as long as you can.

Virginia Fletcher.



Toungoo

I wonder how many of our missionaries or the pastors of their field have adopted the custom of a dedicatory service for the children born to members of their flock. I have been called on several times to conduct such services and have found

that others have the same requests. So far I have not found any satisfactory certificate of Birth and Dedication. I have arranged one and am now having it printed. I shall be glad to send a sample to any of the missionaries who will drop me a card asking for it. I have planned them so that they will be sufficiently attractive for framing if the parents wish it.

The latter part of June I spent over a week in Rangoon attending committee meetings and other business and as it was too late on the Saturday that we got through for me to attend to some business at Pegu I decided to accept the oft repeated invitation of the Lattas to spend a week end with them. I had often wanted to see the new house and I am glad I went, not just on account of seeing the house—those who know the hospitality of the Lattas will understand. But the house! You just need to see it to understand what a house it is. Of course one might know that with such a distinguished and resourceful member of the Property Committee to plan it there would be something worthwhile when it was finished. It is a beauty—commodious, convenient and substantial. Built of brick and with corrugated asbestos roofing it is no source of anxiety in case of nearby fires and with the brick verandah on three sides on the lower floor with strong expanded metal between the pillars and expanding metal doors that lock there must have been a very real sense of security at the time of the uprising. I came to some very rough road on my way down there so that it was not possible to drive over about twenty miles an hour and then I remembered that Mr. Latta had told me that he never drove over thirty miles an hour. No wonder! I was told while there of one of the “old boys” from my school who had recently been baptized on that field. We rejoice that we had had a part in

the teaching that helped him, in another field, to believe.

Our school has opened up better than last year. We have enrolled 366 pupils to date, five more than last year at its best. We expect it to have further additions. The middle school has ninety-seven, that is eleven more than last year. We feel that we are holding the confidence of the public. But what a responsibility, for it is not enough that we teach them the literary subjects alone. If we can make impressions on these lives that will ultimately lead to their salvation through faith in Christ we shall have met the challenge of our opportunity.

A young man, brought up in the Roman faith but not satisfied with it, has with his wife and children recently come to Toungoo. They have been attending our services. He shows a very fine spirit of devotion and testifies to his faith on all opportunities. He has been wonderfully helped by Miss Peterson whose fine Christian life he greatly admires, and also by Dr. Eden whom he went often to listen to. We are hoping for his decision to be baptized soon. Another request has come in, but we feel that it is a bit premature, as he evidently does not yet fully understand the basis on which one becomes a follower of Christ.

The other day while sitting on the verandah I heard the fuse burn out. I went and wired it over and it at once burned out again. Had I not heard it we would have been without light that night. The repair men got to work at once and found that if we had put in a fuse heavy enough to carry the load we might have set the house on fire as it was flashing brightly down between the rafters where the break had occurred. We were glad that I was guided to sit at the table at that time instead of following my usual custom after the morning meal and going elsewhere. How one can see such evidence of guidance and doubt that God does interfere

in our lives at times is hard to understand.

For a long time we have been having a little prayer meeting on Tuesday nights for those who wished to come in and unite with us in prayer for the work of the field. Recently we decided that it would be helpful to the Christians to take up a course of Bible study. Our last meeting took up the subject of sin, its origin and manifestations and our responsibility for sin in our lives. The discussion was spirited and brought out some of the difficulties which trouble us in regard to some phases of this problem. We think it is going to prove a helpful study to the workers, but it means a lot of preparation for me. It is in handling such subjects that I feel especially the need of Divine guidance.

Fresh corn and beans from our garden have been a very welcome change from the kind that we have been getting from the bazaar. I have a very fine stand of American asparagus and we are looking forward to a good cutting from it the coming March.

Lewis B. Rogers.



Ordination

Our youngest son, Richard, was ordained pastor of the First Baptist Church, Cambridge, Mass, last Sunday night, before a crowded and enthusiastic congregation. I had a part in the service. Dr. Herrick preached the sermon; Dr. Evans charged the candidate; Mr. Hamlin, father of Dick's wife, charged the church; I welcomed Dick to the ministry and Mr. Kempton welcomed him to the Association. Dick has been enthusiastically received to a great task, but the church is behind him, young and old, in hearty co-operation, expectant of a great blessing. He has been preaching there since February 1.

John E. Cummings.

Away from Pyinmana Seeing Rural Education in other Missions

That Rural Reconstruction is making progress in many parts of Burma is the impression received from the reports given at the annual meetings of the Burma Christian Council this month. In many places Christian work is getting its fingers into the soil and friends should read the report of the Rural Reconstruction Committee which reviews the ways being tried by many in rural work.

I have just had an interesting visit to Thongwa to see the Methodist Anglo-vernacular middle school with a rural vocational bias in the curriculum. The pupils who are boarders pay twenty baskets of rice a year for their board and do outside manual work one hour in the morning and one and a half hours in the afternoon. The pupils take up the regular literary course in the morning and during two or three afternoons a week take up rural and vocational bias courses as additional subjects. The latter includes weaving, cane work, carpentry, and gardening. We saw the school boys and girls out planting paddy. The neighboring people say the school girls are more friendly with the village girls who plant paddy when they have done this work themselves. A pen of hens also was looked after by the pupils.

The literary work in this school was actually done in less hours than in an ordinary school and algebra and geometry were not started till standard seven. Those who have gone on to high school have done better work than the average. Manual training appears to make the pupils more alert.

In the dormitories the children buy the materials and prepare their own meals and have the practice of keeping house in groups. The girls learn to purchase the materials and feed themselves on one rupee a week. Miss Cavett who is in charge of the school is carrying out some of the

hopes which many mission school managers have expressed of making the middle school serve the life needs of the pupils better.

Another interesting visit was to the S. P. G. Mission rural centre at Chaungwa where a vernacular practising school and vernacular teachers training school are located. In the teachers training school, in addition to the regular literary subjects, the young men also did gardening and looked after pigs and chickens. In the primary department of the practicing school, basket and mat making and vegetable gardening were taught and the fourth standard had a pen of hens they looked after. The best kept pigs I have seen in Lower Burma were at this school. They were Berkshires from Pyinmana and were kept on a raised wooden floor and not allowed to get down into the mud of the low wet ground where the rest of us had to splash. People from the neighborhood purchased all the young pigs which could be spared. In the evening the teachers training class gave a drama based on the story of "The Tempest" from Lamb's Tales of Shakespeare. It was well Burmanized. Miss England has built up the work of rural education here.

I also visited Miss Cam and her hospital at Pedaw not far away and the dispensary at Nyaungu across the river. With girls who have had only a vernacular nurse's training she is carrying on four rural dispensaries. She visits these once a month and carries on her local maternity hospital in addition. The work is all very simple with the kind of equipment that a village can provide. The medicines are paid for by those who come for treatment. The example of Miss Cam had much influence in making the Burma Christian Council recommend that the Missions of Burma attempt to open up more centres for the vernacular training of nurses who come from the villages.

Brayton C. Case.

Judson College

The enrolment has again shown an increase. When college opened for Freshman Week figures were discouraging and we feared that we might lose not only the increase of last year but drop considerably behind the enrolment of recent years. This was probably due to the lateness of the publication of High School Examination results and to the difficulty which a number had in finding the financial support necessary to come to College. On this account numbers of new students were prevented from attending Freshman Week, but as our classes in University courses opened the enrolment reached and then surpassed that of last year. There is good quality too. We are grateful to our High Schools for the promising students who have come on to College.

The table on the preceding page shows the distribution of students according to classes, races, and religions.

"Extension work" is again being carried on for Indian children in the Servants' Village and in Sunday Schools, under the supervision of a committee of which Mrs. D. O. Smith is chairman. We hope to have this reported on later. New work has also been begun with the Rovers under Mr. Dickason's leadership as a nucleus. In this work Dr. Andrus plans to carry out a programme of community improvement in a section of Kamayut and a village at Mingalalon.

A recent letter from Dr. Howard notifies action of the Board authorizing the return to Burma of Dr. and Mrs. Gates and Dr. and Mrs. Andrus. We thought that we had had reports to this effect on the College compound. The official notice identifies the reports. We more than welcome them. Dr. and Mrs. St. John have returned from furlough. As they spent it in Taunggyi, and a short furlough at that, we had hardly the feel-

ing that they were actually on furlough. But we realize their return in the lightening of the work where they are again sharing in it.

Dr. and Mrs. Cady arrived, by the Pacific route, on the 23rd of July. It is with great satisfaction that we welcome them to the Mission family and their work at the College. G. S. Jury.



Congratulations!

On June 10, the degree of D. D. was conferred on Rev. J. Herbert Cope, missionary to the Chins of Northern Burma since 1908.

On the same day the same degree was conferred by Bucknell on Rev. E. Carroll Condict, missionary to the Chins of Southern Burma since 1912. Dr. Condict's son, Chubb, graduated from Bucknell at the same time.



Conference

The Committee of Arrangements for Conference regrets that it cannot give you a complete program at this time but it can announce the general program as we have arranged it. The Committee has met several setbacks inasmuch as a meeting could not be called until June and the program drawn up at that meeting was rejected in favour of the program drawn up for the Conference of last year which we did not convene. The place and dates for Conference were not decided until this last meeting of the Reference Committee so that preparations have been somewhat hurried. If those of you who have been requested to take a part in the program feel that a very short time has been given to you in which to prepare please feel that you have the sympathy of the Committee of Arrangements. We wish that this Conference will be one in which all who come will feel that they have been strengthened spiritually and not worn out by having to struggle through the building of policies.

Roger Cummings,
Conference Secretary.

Conference Program

Theme: "Jesus Christ Must Increase"
Sunday, 13th October

Morning Prayers.

Morning Worship with Racial Churches.

Afternoon — Communion Service with College Church.

Evening — President's Address.

Monday, 14th October

Mornings Prayers.

Morning and Afternoon — Business Sessions.

Evening — Informal Reception.

Tuesday, 15th October

Morning Prayers.

Morning — Conference on "Kingdom Increase — Burman, Indian, Shan Work."

Afternoon — Business Session.

Evening — Service.

Wednesday, 16th October

Morning Prayers.

Morning — Conference on "Kingdom Increase — Sgaw Karen, Pwo Karen, English Speaking Work."

Afternoon — Business Session.

Evening — Free.

Thursday, 17th October

Morning Prayers.

Morning — Conference on "Kingdom Increase — Kachin, Chin, Lahu, Wa Work."

Afternoon — Conference on "Kingdom Increase — Education."

Evening — Address by member of Education Department.

Friday, 18th October

Morning Prayers.

Morning — Conference on "Kingdom Increase — Evangelism."

Afternoon — Conference on "Kingdom Increase — Education" also Unfinished Business.

Evening — Closing Service conducted by the Vice-President.

Devotional Half Hours at 10-30 from Monday through Friday.

All meetings to be held on the campus of Judson College.

Guest are requested to arrive on Saturday, the 12th October.



Annual Workers Institute at Pyinmana

The Institute for rural workers will come just before the Conference and Convention. Mr. and Mrs. Spear of Pegu will give courses on the Bible and rural evangelistic work. Prof. Dickason of Judson College will teach a course on plants and scouting. Ma Hanna will teach methods of Vacation Bible School work. The Agricultural and Health Departments of Government will be represented. The methods we are using at Pyinmana will also be demonstrated. Send your workers who should see Pyinmana.

Board will be Rs. 5 and half fare on the railway can be secured if four or more come together.

B. C. Case.



Errata

We have had our attention called to a few mistakes in the names given in the picture published last month.

Mr. Ingram should read Mr. Joorman. Miss Bertha Clark should be Miss Melissa Carr. Dr. Barbour's secretary is Mr. Issak.



Notice

"The Flight of the Phrygian Slave," a beautiful little story of Onesimus, is now available in Burmese. It takes the facts given to us in Philemon and weaves them into a most interesting 16 page story which will be attractive to both children and adults. The translation was made by Dr. McGuire. It would make a nice little present for pastors' classes. I commend it to the attention of all missionaries. Price: One anna.

W. E. Wiatt.



Sailed

On July, by S. S. *Bhamo*, Miss M. B. Pound.



Arrived

On July 23, by S. S. *Kandhalla* via the Straits, Rev. and Mrs. Harold Young and children and Dr. and Mrs. Cady.



Notice

All those whose furlough are due next March, or who for other reasons are expecting to take furlough at that time, should present their requests to the next Reference Committee which meets on October 10 and 11.

Field Secretary.



For Sale

A Milner's Fire and Burglar Proof Safe. The property of the Cowasjee Estate removed from the old home of the late Mr. B. B. Cowasjee of Tower House. It has been overhauled and repainted and two keys made for it by Oppenheimer and Co. and is as good as a new one. Price: Rs. 50.

	H.	W.	D.
Measurements — Outside,	20"	14"	14"
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It can be seen at my office any day between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

F. W. Gooch,
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(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

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